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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saleh. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 15 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Saleh because a Label Information Database ("LID") of a first device is mirrored by a second device. This feature, previously recited in dependent claims 2 and 8 and now recited in claims 1, 7 and 15, was indicated by the Office to be anticipated by Saleh. In particular, the Office argues that the Link State Advertisement ("LSA") and link state database of Saleh is equivalent to a LID. However, it is well known in the art that a link state database is not a LID. An LSA describes topology and reachability cost for a piece of an OSPF routing domain. All routers in the domain originate LSAs, and those LSAs are flooded throughout the domain such that all routers in the domain have the same collection of LSAs. This collection of LSAs is called the link state (or topological) database, and is used to make routing decisions. In contrast, the LID (a.k.a., Label Information Base ("LIB")) is an MPLS route table of FEC-to-label bindings (now specifically recited in claims 2 and 8). Consequently, claims 1, 7 and 15 distinguish Saleh by reciting LID mirroring. Claims 2-6, 8-14, and 16-19 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

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For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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